As the economy continues to struggle, budget cuts are being felt deeply at Human Services. I appreciate all the care and concern our employees are showing for those we serve. You are professionals and I see examples of your compassion every day. There is not much good news as the financial crisis deepens, but we are going to be there for our clients where we can. They may need us more than ever!

At this time, I am busy advocating for our clients at the legislature and with the public and have already held meetings with new legislators and interest groups. You can do your part by continuing your excellent work day to day. It makes my job easier when I am standing up for a highly committed workforce that is performing critically needed work.

On a happier note, we had a great adoption event with the Heart Gallery folks this month. I also visited with county officials in the aging network, mental health and substance abuse providers, and other elected officials at their annual convention. They are great partners and deserve our support with the economic challenges.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to express my thanks for the work you do and hope you can take time to enjoy family, friends and all the good things in life!